

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The following paragraph in the Specification is amended as shown:

[0004]

~~[0059]~~

Generating symmetric keys among distributed appliances, includes generating public and private values on[[e]] at least one appliance, importing a public value from another appliance via an out-of-band entity, and generating a secret value as a function of the private value corresponding to the local appliance and the public value received from the other appliance.